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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/589,200	06/08/2000	Simon G. Thompson	36-1494	9948

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Nixon & Vanderhye PC
8th Floor
1100 North Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22201-4714

EXAMINER

NAHAR, QAMRUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2124	11

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/589,200

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Qamrun Nahar

Art Unit

2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the RCE filed on 10/09/03.
2. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ernst (U.S. 5,890,133) are withdrawn in view of new grounds of rejection.
3. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.
4. Claims 11-22 are added.
5. Claims 1-22 are pending.
6. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gryphon (U.S. 6,233,537).

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gryphon (U.S. 6,233,537).

Per Claim 1 (Amended):

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **a method of generating a process plan** (“A modeling system for the visual presentation of event-driven business processes, composed of multiple plan elements, is provided.” in column 1, lines 50-65)

- **storing at least one generic process plan, storing at least one non-generic process element containing a predetermined pattern** (“Visual BML is modular. Each Visual BML diagram, referred to as a “plan,” describes the attributes and relationships of a single planned process. Each symbol can be deployed (reused) within the plans for other symbols as appropriate.” in column 2, lines 1-5)

- **searching said at least one generic process plan for the predetermined pattern contained by at least one non-generic process element, on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one non-generic process element into the generic process plan to newly generate a process plan so that the newly generated process plan contains process instructions that are non-identical than that of the generic process plan, and outputting the newly generated process plan** (column 6, lines 1-20; column 6, lines 47-67 to column 7, lines 1-40).

Per Claim 2:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

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- the steps of receiving for storage at least one generic process plan and receiving for storage at least one non-generic process element (column 8, lines 16-25).

Per Claim 3:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- each stored generic process plan is indexed in accordance with a goal to be achieved by the plan, receiving a goal input, and selecting a generic process plan for searching, said selection being in accordance with the received goal input (column 6, lines 1-14).

Per Claim 4:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- at least one non-generic process element comprises resource information, identifying one or more resources to support a process step in a generated process plan (column 6, lines 56-66).

Per Claim 5:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- each stored non-generic process element comprising resource information is indexed in accordance with one or more relevant resources (column 6, lines 56-66).

Per Claim 6:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **at least one inserted process element comprises data** (column 6, lines 56-66).

Per Claim 7:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **at least one non-generic process element comprises context specific method steps or data and is indexed for storage according to the relevant context** (column 6, lines 56-66).

Per Claim 8:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **the context for at least one non-generic process element is service type** (column 6, lines 46-66).

Per Claim 9:

The Gryphon patent discloses:

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- **the context for at least one non-generic process element is customer type** (column 6, lines 56-66).

Per Claim 21 (New):

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **wherein the content introduces new process steps with respect to the generic process plan** (column 7, lines 37-40 and lines 52-57).

Per Claim 22 (New):

The Gryphon patent discloses:

- **wherein the content advises existing process steps of the generic process plan** (column 6, lines 10-12).

Per Claims 10 (Amended) & 11-20 (New):

These are apparatus versions of the claimed method discussed above (claims 1-9 and 21-22, respectively), wherein all claim limitations also have been addressed and/or covered in cited areas as set forth above. Thus, accordingly, these claims are also anticipated by Gryphon.

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Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Qamrun Nahar whose telephone number is (703) 305-7699. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki, can be reached on (703) 305-9662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or processing is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

QN
December 19, 2003

Kakali Chaki

**KAKALI CHAKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**